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WCC students show spirit of local missions

By Jeana Graves
William Carey College

"I had such a great time, I'm going back. There is so much more that I would like to do," said Kristi Kelley, a theatre and English major at William Carey College (WCC) in Hattiesburg.

That statement sums up the feelings of many of the volunteers who spent a recent Saturday working at various ministry projects in Hattiesburg.

Approximately 70 WCC students, faculty, and staff participated in the Fall 1997 Service Blitz co-sponsored by Forrest General Hospital in Hattiesburg and the WCC Student Foundation.

Projects included hanging Sheetrock and clearing land at a Habitat for Humanity house in the area; assembling outdoor playground equipment with Developing Resources for Education in America (DREAM); organizing books at Books for the World; and sorting clothes at the Helping Hand Mission.

Many tasks requested from the various projects were completed early in the day. Assembling the playground equipment at Bonhomie Apartments, however, turned into an all day event.

Volunteers began working about 9 a.m. and were scheduled to work until noon. At 3:30 p.m., many students had not taken lunch breaks.

"There were children everywhere. They were so excited about having a playground," said Kelley.



SPECIAL TOUCH — Bonnie Gammel (center holding child), a theatre and religion major at William Carey College in Hattiesburg, comforts a child during the Service Blitz held recently in Hattiesburg. Approximately 30 volunteers spent the day building a playground for children of the Bonhomie Apartments in Hattiesburg. Overall 70 WCC students, faculty, and staff participated in volunteer projects held throughout the area. (BR Special Photo)

Ben Hawkins, WCC School of Business professor and dean, organized about 30 of the 70 students to work on the playground project.

Justin Bunton, a senior theatre major said, "Those kids needed a place to play. My motivation for staying was that we couldn't let them down."

Students who worked at the South Mississippi Children's Shelter braved poison oak, thorns, and sweltering heat to

complete their task of cleaning around the building. Many members of the Baptist Student Union, moved by the needs of the shelter, have since instituted a volunteer program that will continue to offer services specifically designed for the shelter.

Many of the volunteers — students who receive work service scholarships — are members of the Student Foundation. The Student Foundation, the coordinating body for the federal work study program at WCC, emphasizes the value of the

American work ethic to develop appreciation for all work and community service and to provide students opportunities to finance their college costs.

The WCC volunteer spirit supports the statement of purpose that the college commits itself "to developing responsible leaders and citizens who assume productive lives of service in the broader human community."

For more information on WCC Community Service Days, telephone (601) 582-6192.

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Bible readers get more from life

People who read the Bible regularly experience more joy, contentment, and peace than those who seldom or never read the scriptures, according to a recent survey by Tyndale House Publishers.

The study showed 64% of frequent Bible readers described themselves as feeling full of joy. More than 81% said they feel content; 87% said they are at peace; and 92% agreed their life has a clear purpose and meaning.

Among those who seldom or never read the Bible, 35% said they are joyful; 67% feel content; 58% are at peace; and 69% sense a clear purpose and meaning in life.

Those who read the Bible often also expressed more satisfaction with life in general and were more optimistic that they could make a difference in life. They also worried less about being accepted and were half as likely to worry about death as those who read scripture less than once a month.

The survey of 1,000 adults was conducted by Market Facts for Tyndale House Publishers, to celebrate the first anniversary of the release of the New Living Translation of the Bible.

Looking back

10 years ago

First Church, Byhalia, observes a Day of Praise. The church moved into a new building in 1971, leaving older buildings practically deserted. The 1866 sanctuary has been renovated into a new fellowship hall with a kitchen and dining hall with seating for about 135. Ken McMillen is pastor.

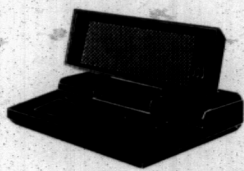
20 years ago

John F. Carter is not in a Clarke College classroom this fall for the first time in over 40 years. Carter, who first came to Clarke College in 1920 as a Bible teacher, retired from full-time teaching at age 75 but continued to teach part-time until his 89th year.

50 years ago

First Church, Brookhaven, celebrates its 75th anniversary with a homecoming day. Former pastors W. H. Morgan, J. A. Taylor, and A. F. Crittendon, and former supply pastor P. H. Anderson, take part in the program. W. Landon Miller is pastor.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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A great loss for the world

This wobbly old planet became a poorer place last week with the loss of an irreplaceable person — a person plucked from obscurity to play an incredible role on the global stage of media stardom and public adulation. Very few people in the civilized world could claim not to have heard of her.

When she entered a room, all eyes fixed on her. At times uncomfortable with the attention and at other times skillful in using the media's fascination to promote her causes, her captivating style will be difficult to replicate.

She experienced her share of tragedy and disappointment in life, and the people on which she most depended often let her down. She certainly had her share of detractors.

Yet she seemed superhuman in her ability to rise above the indignities that surrounded her at every turn. She seemed unimpressed with vast wealth and transcended every political and social division known to humanity.

She dined with presidents and kings, yet remained genuinely distressed at the plight of an orphaned AIDS street child about whom no one seemed to care.

Leaders of the most powerful nations on earth knew they could not stand against her message. She was indifferent to their might, and she feared none of them. They were often compelled to grant her an audience just by the sheer determination of her personality.

She swept Billy Graham off his feet, and Roman Catholic Pope John Paul II described her as a "luminous example."

Within hours of her death, a mourning world began to pile mountains of flowers

around her home and talk of her good works.

Everyone who agreed to be interviewed on television talked of her tireless charity work and her ability to reach out to people she never met with the assurance that one person could make a difference in this world.

New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani stated, "I don't know if I'm allowed to say this, but I believe she was a saint and I haven't met many saints."

"This courageous woman gave hope to millions, and showed us the power of caring and human kindness," said Coretta Scott King, widow of Martin Luther King Jr.

Uncountable masses lined the route of her funeral motorcade. Men cried openly and mothers held high their small daughters for what would be a first and last glimpse of this universal role model of womanhood.

Her heart has stopped and her body is at rest, but her spirit lives on. She will not be soon forgotten, and those of us left behind can take solace in the certitude that her life's work will continue. We wish you a heartfelt farewell, Mother Teresa.

You did know I was talking about her, didn't you?

The untimely loss of Princess Diana last week was overflowing with tragedy, but one of the most tragic elements of the saga has to be the never-ending sacrifice of humanity and treasure on the altar of alcohol.

The deaths of Diana and two other people — and the mangling of a fourth person in the vehicle — was ultimately due not to aggressive photographers but to alcoholic overindulgence.



While the attention of the world was transfixed on the horrific accident in Paris, no one apparently noticed the same thing going on at the same time in our own backyard.

Just as surely as Diana's progeny have been rendered motherless thanks to alcohol, a Mississippi family lost a loved one for the same reason in the same time period. The death of that loved one is just as outrageous as Diana's death, if not as high-profile.

When will this madness stop? The answer is simple: When Christians band together, forswear the use of alcohol in any amount at any time, and make sure our guileful politicians understand we mean business.

The answer, as always, rests with Jesus — and where alcohol is concerned, it's past time we lived like we really believe that.

Have you ever considered the various affinities between sports and religion?

As a sports fan, Baptist minister, and former president of my high school Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) chapter, this relationship has always been very apparent to me.

The Bible has numerous references to athletic events common to its day (Ps. 19:5, Eccl. 9:11, I Cor. 9:24, Gal. 5:7, and Heb. 12:1-2). Paul was particularly fond of using illustrations from the Greek games to challenge Christians to live out their faith.

Since the time that Paul exhorted us to run the race for the eternal crown, there has been an unbroken connection between the athletic arena and the arena of faith.

Even with all that is wrong in sports today there are some things that are right, especially in high school athletics. Which brings me to the purpose of this article.

Since moving back to Mississippi from a ten-year stint in Texas, one issue relating to *The Clarion Ledger* sports page has continually bugged me. This issue finally came to a head on August 27.

On that day the lead sports story was an article by editor Mike Knobler which detailed the extensive commitment the paper was giving this year to the coverage of high school athletics.

GUEST OPINION:



Playoffs or playmates?

By Grant Arinder, pastor
First Church, Belzoni

While I am thrilled about this depth of coverage, I am perplexed at the logic that leads to the placement of ads from various adult sexually-oriented businesses in the same section that targets high school readers.

We may read an article about the outstanding Gulfport athlete, Syniker Taylor, but may also have to put up with an ad from one of the various clubs featuring a woman named *Sindy Sinful*.

Just today a coach in our community told me that during study hall when his kids pick up a sports page, he has to monitor whether they are checking out the playoffs or the playmates.

Are these the kinds of ads that *The Clarion Ledger* wants to greet its "student athletes of the week?" I, for one, see a serious conflict of interest and hope that the publisher will see it as well.

I spoke with the senior vice-president of retail advertising

at the Ft. Worth Star Telegram. Not only does the Star Telegram not place these ads in their sports section, they do not accept them at all.

The V.P. told me that his paper's owners told him, "If you could not take your work home and show it to your mother and be proud of it, then do not do it."

From that point forward he no longer accepted ads from sexually-oriented businesses. I am left with these questions:

◆ Can the Jackson paper not be as moral, responsible, and sensitive to these issues as the Ft. Worth Star Telegram?

◆ How can the newspaper target high school readers and include ads that tantalize high school minds; that promote sexually irresponsible behavior; that create unreal sexual fantasy worlds; and denigrate and exploit women?

If you can be offended without being offensive, I encourage FCA chapters, Christian

sports enthusiasts, moms, dads, ministers, teachers, coaches, denominational leaders, and especially student athletes to call or write the publisher of *The Clarion Ledger* and share with him in a Christlike manner your concerns. They are very reasonable people and appreciate reader's opinions:

Publisher
P.O. Box 40
Jackson, MS 39205-0040
(601) 961-7066

If the *Clarion Ledger* refuses to drop or move the ads, I suggest that Baptists buy advertising space next to these ads.

I can picture it now: right next to an ad featuring a seductive picture of a former *Penthouse* centerfold, we can place an ad featuring a picture of a family holding hands walking toward a church in the background.

The bold print could read, "Your local Baptist church: where the action really is!" and in smaller print, "Free entrance for men escorted by wife and children," or "Happy Hour every Sunday evening from 6-8 p.m.," or maybe even, "Wednesday Nite — Ladies Nite. Don't cook at home! Bring your family to church for supper."

Perhaps then we could remind people "looking for love in all the wrong places" of the love of Christ and his church.

N.C. pastor to lead NAMB church planting group

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — Phillip Davis, an African-American pastor from North Carolina, has accepted a key position with the church planting group of the new North American Mission Board (NAMB).

Davis will become director of new church implementation, with responsibilities for coordinating the starting of new Southern Baptist churches across the U.S. and Canada.

Richard Harris, NAMB vice president of church planting, said Davis is "a gifted, visionary leader, and a great pulpiteer with a deep commitment to Christ. He is a proven church planter with a wealth of experience and success in starting new churches. We are so pleased the Lord has led him here."

Davis is pastor of Nations Ford Church, Charlotte, N.C., a congregation he started 10 years ago. The multiethnic congregation now averages more than 900 in Sunday morning worship services. The church also has started two churches.

"My life's vision is to reach people of all races with the gospel of Jesus Christ," Davis

said. "I believe this new position will give us the opportunity to do that and train others to do it."

Last fall Davis was elected first vice president of the North Carolina Baptist Convention — the first African-American to hold an office in the state convention.

He will begin his new position following completion of that term of office Nov. 15, although he will attend several planning and orientation meetings at NAMB's offices in Alpharetta, Ga., during the next several weeks.

Also joining NAMB are:

◆ Christopher Schofield, spiritual renewal leadership manager.

◆ James "Butch" Henderson, student volunteer mobilization associate.

◆ Jerry Conner, hardware/network specialist in the Fort Worth office.

◆ Tricia Ragsdale, producer of the television program, "HomeLife."

Schofield has an itinerant preaching and teaching ministry based in Wake Forest, N.C., where he served as adjunct professor of evangelism and teaching fellow at Southeastern Seminary (SEBTS).

He earned a master of divinity from SEBTS and is pursuing a Ph.D. in evangelism there. Schofield has pastored several churches in North Carolina and written and lectured extensively on prayer and evangelism.

In his new position, Schofield will lead NAMB's spiritual and laity renewal programs, which are part of the church evangelism team. He will begin Oct. 1.

Henderson will assist in coordinating the agency's vast student volunteer program.

He is a native of Alabama with a master's degree in religious education from New Orleans Seminary and an undergraduate degree in education from the University of North Alabama.

Henderson has served as minister of education at First Church, Birmingham, Ala., since 1990, having previously served as minister of youth at churches in Alabama and Louisiana. He has served as a project coordinator for World Changers, a volunteer program developed by the former Brotherhood Commission, which is now part of NAMB.

As hardware and network specialist at NAMB's Fort Worth, Texas, office, Conner will provide computer support for the agency's media technology team.

He comes to NAMB with 19 years of business management experience, the last 10 with The Boeing Company's information systems department in Wichita, Kan.

Ragsdale spent the past seven years as a media producer for the SBC's International Mission Board based in Richmond, Va.

She has worked in nearly 30 countries producing missions education programs for use in Southern Baptist churches. "HomeLife" is a weekly half-hour television program available on NAMB's two networks, FamilyNet and ACTS.



THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

THE BAPTIST Record

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Leaders plea for persecution legislation

WASHINGTON (BP) — More than 80 religious, academic and public policy leaders have joined together to ask the leadership of Congress to act this year on legislation designed to curb religious persecution in foreign countries.

Signing onto the letter were Tom Elliff, president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC); Jim Henry, SBC president immediately preceding Elliff; and Richard Land, president of the convention's Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission.

The letter — which was sent to Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, House of Representatives Minority Leader Richard Gephardt and Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle — asks for the leadership's assurances that committee action will be scheduled in such a way as to gain a floor vote before Congress adjourns this year on legislation to "impose prohibitive costs on countries involved in widespread and ongoing persecutions of vulnerable communities of faith."

It requests hearings begin in September and floor action be taken by early November, in time for the second Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church, which many churches will observe Nov. 16.

Such action "will send the strongest possible signal to all regimes now operating as if hunting licenses were in effect against vulnerable communities of faith," the letter says.

A hearing on such a measure is scheduled Sept. 10 in the House. The International Relations Committee will hear testimony on the Freedom From Religious Persecution Act, introduced in the House by Rep. Frank Wolf, R-Va., and in the Senate by Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa.

In their letter, the 81 leaders say the Wolf-Specter bill should be the basis for any anti-persecution legislation, but some of them may work for it to be strengthened.

The bill would:

◆ establish a new White House position, director of the Office of Religious Persecution Monitoring, to report on persecution overseas;

◆ provide for sanctions against governments that support or fail to prevent persecution;

◆ improve asylum proceedings for victims of religious persecution.

The legislation also levels immediate sanctions against Sudan, an African country that bill proponents say has one of the worst records on religious persecution. Enslavement of Christian women and children is commonly practiced.

Among other countries named in the letter as sites of persecution are China, Vietnam, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Pakistan, Iran, and Indonesia.

The persecution of Christians, largely in communist and Muslim-dominated countries, has gained increasing attention in the United States in the last 18 months. It is estimated about 100 million Christians have been martyred in this century, more than the previous 19 centuries combined. It also is estimated from 200 to 250 million Christians will be persecuted in 1997.

In response to calls for action to thwart such persecution, the Clinton administration named last fall a 20-member, State Department-administered committee on religious liberty overseas. Henry and National Association of Evangelicals President Don Argue, both signers of the letter, are members of the committee.

The Wolf-Specter bill calls for the director of the Office of Religious Persecution Monitoring to make an annual report determining whether a country is guilty of "category one" or "category two" religious persecution. Category one describes government support for or implementation of widespread religious persecution, including killing, rape, imprisonment, abduction, torture, enslavement, or forced mass resettlement. In category two, the government does not carry out persecution but fails to

make serious efforts to prevent it.

Among the sanctions provided for are a ban on all exports to foreign government entities that carry out acts of persecution, as well as elimination of non-humanitarian aid and development bank loans to offending governments. The legislation also instructs the president to consider religious persecution as an important factor in whether to support a country's membership in the World Trade Organization.

MC welcome party



Jennifer Sharpe (left), a junior from Brookhaven; Audrey Monroe (center), a sophomore from Brookhaven; and Stephanie Sullivan, a junior from Mize, gather information on local Clinton churches at the annual Mississippi College Baptist Student Union kickoff on Aug. 26. (Photo by Carl M. White)

1998 SBC housing forms now available

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP and local reports) — An advisory to make reservations early for the 1998 Salt Lake City annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) has little to do with Mormonism.

The city's hotels are not as large as those in other cities where the SBC has met, said convention manager Jack R. Wilkerson, vice president for business and finance at the SBC Executive Committee. Thus, each official convention-related hotel will have fewer rooms available for messengers attending the June 9-11 SBC annual meeting, Wilkerson said.

SBC hotel registration will begin Oct. 1.

The SBC housing guide and request form is now available at state Baptist convention offices and the Executive Committee in Nashville, Tenn.

For more information or to obtain a housing form, contact the Office of the Executive Director-Treasurer, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

The housing form is also available in the September edition of SBC LIFE, the Executive Committee monthly journal.

Beginning Oct. 1, reservations may be made by calling the Salt Lake City Convention and Visitors Bureau/Southern Baptist Convention (SLCVB/SBC) Housing

Bureau at (800) 217-0002 or (801) 521-9025. Completed forms also may be faxed to (801) 355-0250.

By mail, the forms must be postmarked Oct. 1 or after and addressed to SLCVB/SBC Housing Bureau, 90 S. West Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84101-1406.

Room reservations will be made on a first-come, first-served basis through the computerized housing system of the SLCVB/SBC Housing Bureau.

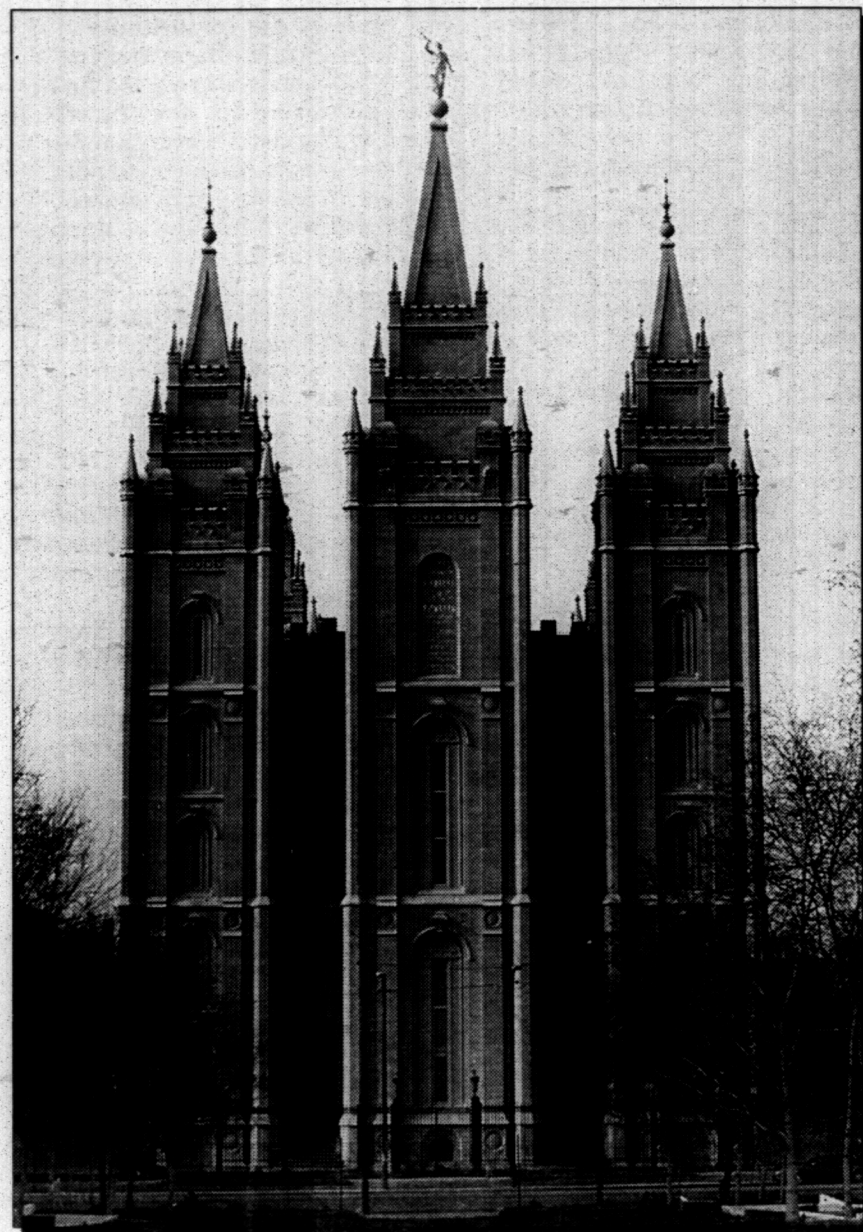
Forms must be postmarked on or after Oct. 1, 1997. No reservations will be processed prior to that date. All reservation requests must be accompanied by a deposit or credit card number and must be received by May 1, 1998, when remaining rooms will be returned to the hotels.

Wilkerson also noted:

◆ All official convention-related hotels will be located in areas away from problems involving Interstate 15 construction in progress for the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City.

◆ Official hotels in the airport area are less expensive and are located from two to six miles from the Salt Palace Convention Center.

A shuttle service will operate in both the downtown and airport areas to transport messengers to the SBC sessions. Most convention-related hotels also will provide free airport shuttle service.



SALT LAKE IN '98 — The Tabernacle of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS) in Salt Lake City is one of the imposing sights Southern Baptists will encounter when they hold their 1998 meeting in the heart of Mormon country. (BR Special photo)

Brotherhood leader asks support for PK rally

Paul Harrell, director of the Mississippi Baptist Brotherhood Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) is calling for men to affirm the national focus on prayer that is being led by Promise Keepers (PK) through their Oct. 4 National Stand in the Gap Prayer Rally in Washington, D. C.

To help local churches prepare for the event, the Brotherhood Department has issued a pamphlet called "Stand in the Gap: A Sacred Assembly of Men Prayer Rally."

The pamphlet states, "The Brotherhood Department of the MBCB

affirms the effort of having men gather in Washington for a national prayer rally."

Though hundreds of thousands of men are expected in the nation's capital for the Promise Keepers national prayer rally, most Mississippi Baptist men will not be able to attend, Harrell said, so the Brotherhood Department is proposing that Oct. 4 be designated as a day of prayer and that local associations and/or churches organize and conduct prayer rallies.

The Brotherhood pamphlet includes three suggested prayer rally models for the local church or the association. Each model includes four specific areas for prayer:

- ◆ The making of a Godly man.
- ◆ God's man in the home.
- ◆ God's man in the church.
- ◆ God's man in the marketplace.

For more information or to obtain copies of the pamphlet, contact the MBCB Brotherhood Department at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

**PK PROMISE
KEEPERS**

State CP tops \$17 million

Mississippi Baptists gave \$1.8 million through the Cooperative Program (CP) in August, bringing 1997 gifts to \$17.2 million, according to Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, which disburses the gifts.

August's total was \$1,806,630, which was substantially less than the \$2,166,030 given in August of 1996. However, the eight-month total of \$17,207,707 was \$646,479, or 3.9% more than that given for the first eight months of 1996.

At this point, compared to the total 1997 budget of \$24,145,086, Mississippi Baptists are \$1,110,983 ahead of the pro rata budget.

Cooperative Program gifts help fund such Mississippi programs as the upcoming Sunday School Leadership Conference at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Sept. 12-13, and the college student conference at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, Sept. 26-27.

SBC CP moves ahead 4%

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Cooperative Program (CP) receipts for August declined more than 11% over August 1997 while year-to-date receipts totaled more than 4% over the previous year, according to Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee.

August 1997 receipts totaled \$11,598,190 compared to August 1996 of \$13,101,189, a decrease of \$1,502,998 or 11.47%. For the 11 months of the SBC's fiscal year, CP gifts totaled \$141,493,038, an increase of \$5,557,836, or 4%.

For the SBC's Program Allocation Budget, the August 1997 total was \$489,600 short of the required monthly figure of \$12,087,791 or 4.05%. However, for the year to date, the budget has been surpassed by \$8,527,330 from the required budget figure of \$132,965,707 or an increase of 6.41%.

60,000th Southwestern student registered

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — A bird in the bush was worth \$600 in Traci Jackson's hand. Along with balloons, a certificate suitable for framing, and a footnote in history.

On Aug. 20, the 25-year-old Jackson became the 60,000th individual to enroll at Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

The surprise scholarship was "worth a whole lot" but not nearly as much as the second clear affirmation of her vocational direction, she said.

Last March, Jackson's struggle with whether to attend the seminary ended with an encounter with a scissor-tailed fly-catcher in a pasture outside Belton, Texas.

The scholarship confirmed, to her, the rightness of her mid-August decision, against all financial logic and emotion, to choose Southwestern.

"I came to Fort Worth with \$500 in my savings account with a \$250 car payment and the first month's rent of \$250 due," she explained.

"I was looking down at my class schedule, wondering how God was going to provide when they announced my name."

Students at orientation had been told one of them would be the 60,000th student at the seminary but there was no mention of a scholarship. As of Aug. 19, the registration count stood at 59,787. Registrar Rebecca Morton took the alphabetized

list of students scheduled to register the next day, counted down 213 spaces: Traci Lyn Jackson.

Students #212 and #214 received gift certificates from the seminary Spirit Shop and the entire group got ice cream cones.

Jackson, a native of Belton and a graduate of Mary Hardin-Baylor University there, has been headed to the classroom most of her life. "For almost three years, I consistently said 'no' to Christian vocational ministry. I dreamed of being an English teacher." But in her senior year at Mary Hardin-Baylor, she suddenly "hated the idea — I still loved children, but the thought of a career as a schoolteacher literally made me sick." She was now haunted by the thought of investing her life "teaching something that had no eternal value."

Still, she completed her degree and certification and after graduation in December 1996 began substitute teaching practically full time. But the day after Rebekah Retta, a Southwestern graduate and Jackson's youth and college minister at Miller Heights Church, Belton, challenged Jackson to examine the things in her life she had been "saying no" to God about, she found herself without a place to teach.

She went to her favorite prayer spot beside the barn on her parents' farm and spent the day praying, thinking, and



BENCHMARK — Traci Lyn Jackson (left) of Belton, Texas, was the 213th name on the registration list Aug. 19 at Southwestern Seminary — the 60,000th individual to register in the school's 89-year history. (SWBTS photo by Morris Abernathy)

writing in her journal. At one point, she noticed the scissor-tailed fly-catcher sitting on a fence 20 yards away. When she returned to praying, the image came back, along with the biblical teaching that the God who cares for the birds of the air takes even better care of his children.

"When I opened my eyes, the bird was still there and I had confidence that God would

take care of me and wanted me to go to seminary," Jackson said.

Jackson liked Southeastern, and it looked like an easy decision. Still, she didn't feel easy and kept praying.

Finally, "with no job and no place to live," she felt God's call was to Fort Worth.

"God knew who our 60,000th student would be long before we did," Morton said.

SYATP participant support encouraged in Mississippi

By Don Lum
MBCB Evangelism Dept.

At 7:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 17, a young man will muster his courage, breathe a silent prayer and walk up to the flag pole on his school campus for the annual See You at the Pole (SYATP) observance.

He will wonder to himself if he'll be the only one to come and pray, knowing deep in his soul that it doesn't matter because he has already faced his fears and his devotion to Christ and won.

Then he's joined by a fellow student. They nod, both feeling a sense of relief and renewed courage as they stand together.

One by one, they are joined by fellow classmates. They begin to pray. They thank God for salvation and the courage to stand for him. Together they lift their teachers, administrators, and classmates in prayer to God.

Soon it's time go to class. As

they go, each to his/her different class, they go knowing that they are Christ's vessels to be used by him. They go as his hands, his voice, his smile. They go as Christ's representative to their world because they know that they are the only Christ that some of their classmates will ever see.

On Wednesday, September 17, thousands of youth will gather on school campuses across our state to pray. On some campuses there will only be three or four students; on others a hundred or more students.

Collectively, it will be the largest prayer meeting ever held in Mississippi.

Pastors, youth leaders, parents, school administrators, and teachers, are asked to encourage teenagers to participate.

Give them the incentive to take a stand. Join them in praying for the harvest on the ripest mission fields in Mississippi—our junior and senior high school campuses.



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

How do I deal with special people in my life who ridicule my Christianity?

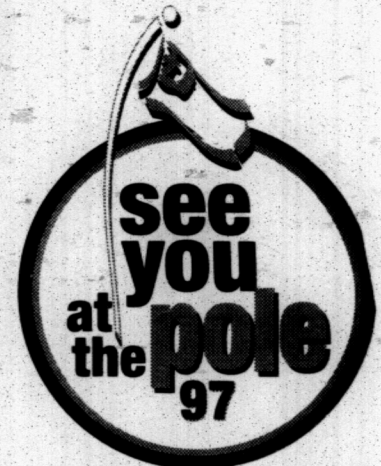
Living with ridicule from special people like loved ones and close friends is an especially difficult part of being a follower of Christ. Why are these people trying so hard to offend you? The affront may be born of jealousy, ignorance, or hurt. Do your best to figure out their motives, and continue to love them even in the face of their opposition. Your example in this regard is Christ himself; he was constantly ridiculed by others — including his own family — yet he continued to show understanding, acceptance, and love. He was able to do that because he was well-grounded in who he was and whose he was. The same can be true for you. Focus on your goal of glorifying Jesus in everything you do, and show

these people a love they have never experienced. Ask your Christian friends to pray for you, and never cease praying for these special people in your life.

If I see a wrong and do nothing to prevent it, am I guilty of sin?

Wrongs cannot always be prevented, but you can certainly stop it when it gets to you. The sin is not so much in preventing a wrong as it is partaking in a wrong. That's why you must stop it when it gets to you. Likewise, we are not to delight in the afflictions of others but rather to build up each other. Christians have a responsibility to look out for the welfare of others, as our Savior explained many times during his earthly ministry. When it comes to getting involved in stopping a wrong, pray earnestly and follow God's direction.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.



September 17, 1997

Promotion material for See You at the Pole is available by calling (817) 447-7526. The telephone number listed in the Sept. 4 listed an incorrect area code.

Mississippi reports immediately after the event are requested and can be made by calling Don Lum, Evangelism Dept., MBCB at (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:45 p.m.

'Celebrate Life' going strong after 25 years

HOUSTON (ABP) — After seven or eight years of seeking fame and fortune as an actor in New York City, Ragan Courtney wrote and starred in a play that opened on Broadway. One week later, the play closed, and he was devastated.

He immediately went to the Caribbean island of Antigua to rest and collect his thoughts. He became so depressed he decided to kill himself.

"I thought I would swim out into the Caribbean as far as I could and that would be it," he recalled, "but as I started to step out into the ocean, I remembered all the childhood songs I had been taught — even 'Jesus Loves Me' — and realized I was about to throw away something God thought was so worthwhile he gave his Son to save."

The clouds broke and the young actor looked up to see a brilliant sunset.

"I began to weep," he recalled. "I had been a nominal Christian. I knew there was a Jesus and a God and a devil. I knew about Jesus, but somehow I didn't know him. I became a Christian at that point

in my life, by myself, praying out loud to God."

Courtney, who had been raised as a Baptist in Louisiana, walked out of the water a "new-born creature," he said. "I realized that what had happened to me was I had been born again."

He immediately sat down and wrote the following words: "He's the wind I soar on; he's the grass I run through; he's the one I turn to when I have to laugh or cry. He's the light of my world; he's my priceless pearl; he's my answer to why, he's my friend even after I die. He's the sun I sing in; he's the sea I swim in; he's the mountain I climb to when I want to reach a new high. Jesus my Lord."

Courtney returned to New York and a short time later was asked by the Sunday School Board to write the drama and lyrics for a new youth musical to be called "Celebrate Life." He was to collaborate with Buryl Red, a composer transplanted from Arkansas to New York City.

The words Courtney had penned with water-soaked hands became the opening lines of a song called "The Truth

Shall Make You Free," one of 15 songs in the new musical.

It's been 25 years since "Celebrate Life's" contemporary retelling of the life of Christ was published with Courtney's words and Red's music. Virtually any baby boomer who grew up attending a Southern Baptist church has either sung or heard the music.

"It is probably the strongest Christian musical for church usage in this century," said Mark Blankenship, director of the Nashville-based Sunday School Board's Music Ministries Department.

By some estimates, "Celebrate Life" may have sold nearly half a million copies. That compares to church musicals today that are considered successful if they sell 30,000 copies.

From the day of its premiere, "Celebrate Life" met with "wild acclaim," explained Elwyn Raymer, who in 1972 was music editor at the Sunday School Board and today is an executive with BMG Music.

Neither Courtney nor Red had any idea their work would become a classic.

"I remember when I gave [the lyrics] to Buryl, I was sort of embarrassed," Courtney recalled. "I was afraid 'In Remembrance' was just a little ditty he would laugh at."

Red recalled that when Courtney first suggested they make "Celebrate Life" a retelling of the life of Christ, he thought such a project too ambitious.

"I thought it was pretty bold that we would do a life of Christ," he said. "My thought was, 'I hope we're up to this.'"

The result was a life-changing experience for thousands of people.

"There were lots of decisions for Christ," said Raymer, the former music editor. "Churches would always report rededications and conversions in the use of 'Celebrate Life.' For our church music department, it was like we had grabbed hold of the reins of a runaway stallion."

"I guess I still am thrilled every time an adult says they sang it when they were a youth and that it was a major influence on their life, personally and even professionally," Red pointed out.

'Good News' bad news for music traditionalists

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (ABP) — The day of the big youth musical may seem as far away to some Southern Baptists as bell-bottom pants and leisure suits,

but the influence of that genre on church music is heard even more loudly today.

"Celebrate Life," which marks its 25th anniversary of publication this year, wasn't the first major youth musical, but it is the best-known and most-used.

By most accounts the first youth musical published for use in churches was "Good News," which premiered in 1967.

To many traditional church musicians, "Good News" was bad news because it brought influences of secular music to bear on church music.

"Good News" and its predecessors did for church music what Elvis did for the blues: Many more people were interested, especially many more young people, but the product never was the same again once it met up with rock and roll.

"This was the beginning of kind of catering to youth in the churches," explained Jim Cordell, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Church Music Department. "To me the downside is it has separated them into almost a parachurch organization. Before this, they were integrated into the life of the church."

As a result, baby boomers who were raised on youth

musicals have not gained an appreciation for the standard choral repertoire of the church, he said. "Some youth choirs went down the road of doing nothing but musicals. The danger in that is you don't build good choral tones. You've got to do a variety; there's got to be a balance."

Others see the drive for churches to offer "seeker" services and contemporary worship styles today as natural outgrowths of the earlier youth musical movement.

On the flip side, however, youth musicals opened the door for many more young peo-

ple to remain active in the church and find a place where they could identify, according to Phillip Landgrave, professor of church music at Southern Seminary.

The youth musicals of the late 1960s and early 1970s were a "positive effort not only to reach youth but to identify with youth," Landgrave said. "It gave them a voice."

Yet today, the music of "Good News" and "Celebrate Life" looks tame in comparison to contemporary worship trends, noted Elwyn Raymer, former music editor for the Sunday School Board.

Henderson recognized



Lakeshore Church, Metro Association, honored Guy Henderson (right) on Aug. 24 for his 50th anniversary in the ministry. Pictured with Henderson, interim pastor of Lakeshore Church and editor emeritus of The Baptist Record, is his wife Lois. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



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Hawkins reportedly considering AB post

DALLAS (BP) — O.S. Hawkins, senior pastor of historic First Church, Dallas, and the Southern Baptist Convention's Annuity Board (AB) both deny Hawkins is the nominee for president of the Annuity Board, although a major Dallas newspaper says he is considering the position.

The Dallas Morning News in its Sept. 4 edition said Hawkins told his congregation at its Wednesday night prayer meeting he "might leave for another job — but he insisted that he had made no decision."

Although the newspaper did not identify what "another job" is, the newspaper did mention rumors connecting the presidency of the Annuity Board,

located in Dallas, and Hawkins' name "had percolated through the church for several weeks." The Annuity Board, with more than \$6 billion in assets, is the world's second-largest church pension fund, the newspaper said, and is looking for a successor for a retiring president.

Annuity Board officials told Baptist Press Sept. 4, "We have no information about any person who may be under consid-



Hawkins

eration as a possible presidential nominee. The presidential search committee has made no recommendation to the board of trustees, and the committee has no deadline for completion of its search and recommendation." Search committee chairman J. Ray Taylor, a Fort Worth, Texas, layman, is vacationing, board officials said, but confirmed the committee does not have a nominee at this time.

According to the newspaper, Hawkins told his congregation, "I have not told them 'yes' at all. Anything you hear about that is just a rumor."

Hawkins said he had neither been formally offered the job nor had he decided to pursue it, the newspaper said, although "he

said he would make his decision in the next week to 10 days."

The new president will succeed Paul Powell, who will be 65 in December 1998.

Powell asked the trustees in February 1996 to begin the search for a new chief executive officer. The committee was appointed in November of last year.

First Church is one of the largest Southern Baptist churches in America with more than 28,000 members, meeting at an historic campus in downtown Dallas covering several city blocks.

Hawkins has been pastor of the church since August 1993. Previously he was a pastor in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Baptist missionaries' son sings at Diana's funeral

LONDON (BP) — The world was watching when Jonathan Kirk, son of Southern Baptist missionaries Tom and Carolyn Kirk, took to the choir risers to glorify God.

The 12-year-old boy was selected as one of 24 members of the Westminster Abbey boys choir that performed before world leaders and celebrities at the funeral service for Princess Diana on Sept. 6.

Estimates are that more than 50 million people from all corners of the globe were watching.

The princess died just hours after rescuers extracted her, her boyfriend, bodyguard, and driver from the wreckage of a Mercedes Benz Aug. 30. The bodyguard was the only survivor.

The Kirks, International Mission Board missionaries since 1984, now live and work in Porto Alegre, Brazil. From 1993 through 1996 during a leave of absence while his wife was being treated for cancer, Tom Kirk was pastor of Beverley Church in his wife's hometown in northern England.

In March 1996 Jonathan was invited to study at the Westminster Abbey Choir School, where he remained after his parents returned to Brazil.

Jonathan was visiting his family in Porto Alegre when he received a call from Martin Neary, the Westminster Abbey choirmaster, asking him to consider singing at the funeral. Neary is coordinating music for the funeral service.

"He cried before he left," said his mother. "He cried because it was so tragic the way Diana died, and also because he didn't really want to leave his brothers."

Jonathan and his choir mates

sang three hymns, in addition to "The 23rd Psalm" and parts of "Requiem" by the composer Verdi, a favorite of the princess, according to the British daily newspaper, The Evening Standard.

Venezuelan church in need

Located in the heart of beautiful vacation land, Pagosa Mountain Heights Baptist Church needs support and encouragement from Baptist brothers and sisters.

The church was organized in 1983 and met in rented facilities until 1995. Forced to vacate the rented building, the church, with the help of 400 volunteers, built a new building and occupied it in 1995.

The present pastor has roots in Mississippi, but the community is changing. Many young families have moved, leaving the community to retirees and recreators.

Finances have bottomed out. Over 90% of the resident members are retired senior adults.

The church is in need of:

- ◆ A young adult (US2 type) to volunteer for four months to two years of service.

- ◆ A couple (Mission Service Corps) who will work with outreach and leadership training.

- ◆ Financial support for an extended period (two to three years).

For more information, contact the Partnership Missions Office at the address and telephone number listed at right.

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JOHN BEWLEY TO RETIRE

A special recognition service honoring Rev. John Bewley upon his retirement as Director of Activities at Broadmoor Baptist Church after 33 years of faithful ministry will be held in the church sanctuary

SUNDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 28, 1997 AT 6:00

A reception will follow in the Activities Building

Rev. John Bewley joined the Broadmoor Baptist Church staff as Director of Activities in June 1964. Prior to coming to Broadmoor, he served as Director of Youth and Recreation at First Baptist Church, Lake Charles, LA. He and his wife, Barbara, have three grown children — Jon (Rick), Jan, and Jay — and two grandchildren.

We welcome friends and guests to join us as we give special recognition to him on this momentous occasion.
Sports/casual attire appropriate.



Miss. Baptists requested in Venezuela

A new request has just come for 25 evangelists (preachers and witnesses) to travel to Maracaibo, Venezuela on November 14-24, as part of the Mississippi/Venezuela Partnership Project of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

Teams of two persons will visit in the mornings to share the gospel, and evangelistic services will be held in the evenings. Venezuelan Baptists are counting heavily on the Mississippi Baptist response to this need in helping evangelize their homeland.

Time is very important. All funds for the trip must be secured by October 1. However, \$100 will hold a place now and count toward the total cost of \$1,300.

For more information, contact the MBCB Partnership Missions Office, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Gilead Ministries slates first public event

By **Lola M. Autry**
Correspondent

As Nehemiah inspected the broken down walls of Jerusalem he said that "he had not told anyone what my God had put in my heart to do for Jerusalem".

In the same way, Gilead Ministries is not founded on a dream nor a vision but as a result of what God put into the heart of a preacher's son. Now, with the same gracious hand that guided Nehemiah, God has guided the steps of this son

and provided the means through which this ministry to hurting hearts can begin.

The first public conference at Gilead will be on September 20 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and is entitled "When Answers Aren't Enough...and God Doesn't Seem to Care."

The conference is scheduled specifically for hurting Christians and those who want to help.

The fee of \$38 includes all program materials, refreshments, and lunch. Registration must be received by September

15. Mail to Gilead Ministries, P.O. Box 10, Etta, MS 38627. Telephone: (601) 234-4465.

Speakers include:

◆ **James Lewis**, pastor of First Church, New Albany, will serve as the conference leader.

◆ **Martha Crawford**, a writer, church secretary and retired school



Lewis

teacher, who still has no answers to many of her questions. She and her husband, Ray, struggle daily with the reality of having a son on death row in a state prison.

◆ **Vicki Ferguson**, who shared almost ten years of marriage with her physician husband, Scott. Scott, a hemophiliac, died in March, 1996 from AIDS contracted from contaminated blood products.

Lanny Autry, founder of Gilead Ministries, is a forester who, as he states it, makes his living "talking to trees."

Although he considered himself to be totally in God's will, Autry suddenly found himself at the point of death.

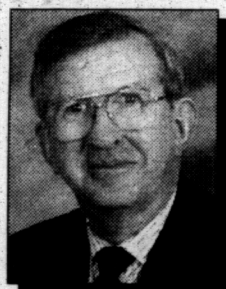
With a new appreciation for the meaning of "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death... he shares his fears and frustrations, his questions and the answers God continues to give."

Gilead Ministries may be reached from either New Albany or Oxford. From New Albany, travel Mississippi Highway 30 toward Oxford for approximately 15 miles. Turn right on Lafayette County Road 244 and travel 3.5 miles to the entrance to Gilead.

From Oxford, travel Mississippi Highway 30 toward New Albany approximately 17 miles. Turn left on Lafayette County Road 244 and travel approximately 3.5 miles to the entrance to Gilead.

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Bradley Pope of Clinton has assumed the position of coordinator for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) of Mississippi, effective Aug. 15. He has been serving as a member of the coordinating council for two years. From 1963-83, Pope served as director of Religious Activities at Mississippi College. Since that time, he has been a staff counselor at The Shepherd's Staff Counseling Center in Jackson. Pope received his education at Mississippi College, Southern Seminary, and San Francisco Seminary. He is a member of Northside Church, Clinton, where he serves as deacon.



Pope

Michael Peeler was recently ordained to the ministry in services held at Memorial Church,

Citronelle, Ala., where he is presently serving as minister of music. He was licensed at Meadville Church. Peeler is a graduate of Mississippi State University and New Orleans Seminary. He is the son of Percy and Hilda Peeler of Meadville.

Andrew Gerald Pittman graduated with a master of divinity on Aug. 16 magna cum

laude from George W. Truett Seminary of Baylor University, Waco, Texas, as part of the inaugural class. Pittman, a graduate of Mississippi College, is presently serving as associate pastor and college minister at First Church, Woodway, Waco, Texas. He previously served at Mt. Olive Church, Carroll Association, and Griffith Memorial Church, Metro Association.



Barton Church, Lucedale, recently ordained **Jimmy Holcomb** to the ministry. He was presented a Bible from the church and the service was followed by a reception. Holcomb is serving as pastor of Antioch Church, Greene County. Pictured (from left) are John W. Henry, director of missions, George/Greene Association; James F. Sanders, pastor of Barton Church; Holcomb; and I. B. Faurot, chairman of deacons, Barton Church.



John Tidwell (left) was licensed to the ministry by Calvary Church, Booneville, on July 27. He is currently enrolled at William Carey College. Pictured with him is his father James Tidwell.



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WANTED: Part-time Youth Director. Send resumes to: Trinity Baptist Church, 595 Center Avenue, Philadelphia, MS 39350.

ACCEPTING RESUMES: Full-time conservative Youth/Children's Minister. Send to: PO Box 753, Waldron, AR 72958.

SEEKING RESUMES, Minister of Music/Youth. First Baptist Church, Box 1568, Leesville, Louisiana 71496.

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JUST FOR THE RECORD



North Morton Church, Scott Association, recently held a Recognition Service for its Acteens. Pictured (from left) are Jane Brown, director; Ashton Currie, Jessica Fedrick, Loretta Franklin, and Ashley Gregory, queen; Shawna Massey, queen with scepter; and Delicia Hines, queen regent with scepter. Roy Clark is pastor.

God with Us will be presented at West Ellisville Church, Ellisville, on Sept. 28 at 7 p.m. McKay Pearce is minister of music and education, and

Dwight L. Smith is pastor.

Barbara Joiner, author of "Count It All Joy," will be the keynote speaker at a Women's

W. R. Storie, minister, dies

W. R. Storie, 94, of Jackson, died Aug. 30 from heart failure. Funeral services were held Sept. 2.

Storie, a native of Cookeville, Tenn., was ordained in 1926. He held pastorates at Duck Hill, Maben, Sardis, Itta Bena, Laurel, Hattiesburg, Ocean Springs, and Emmanuel Church in Jackson. For a number of years he was prayer evangelist for E. J. Daniels and was prayer minister for 19 years at

Parkway Church, Jackson.

Survivors include his wife Ollie H. Storie, Jackson; sons, Walter R. Storie Jr., Pascagoula, and Kenneth Lee Storie, Aurora, Colo.; daughters, Ivey Lou Reid, Jayess, and Dorothy S. Woodard, Sweeny, Texas; and 11 grandchildren and 22 great grandchildren.

Retreat sponsored by Centreville Church, Centreville, on Oct. 10 and 11. Others speakers include Kay Cassibry, executive director of Louisiana WMU, and Bible teacher Gene Douell. For registration by Oct. 1 and more information, call (601) 645-6120.

Pope Church, Panola Association, will celebrate its 125th anniversary on Oct. 12. The guest speaker will be former pastor Jimmy Furr of Mt. Juliet, Tenn. Activities will include Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., worship, 11 a.m., special music and other former pas-

tors in the afternoon following lunch. Jimmy C. Bryant is pastor.

Broadmoor Church, Jackson, will honor John Bewley, director of activities for 33 years, upon his retirement. The special recognition service will be held in the sanctuary on Sept. 28 at 6 p.m. A reception will follow in the activities building.

Fall Festival will be held at Flowood Church, Flowood, Sept. 27, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

For more information, call the church at (601) 992-6464.

STAFF CHANGES

First Church, Madison, has called **Billy Hollingsworth** as minister to preschool and preschool families effective Sept. 22. A native of Byram, Hollingsworth received his education at Mississippi College and Southwestern Seminary. His previous place of service was First Church, Scottsdale, Ariz.

Tony M. Fortenberry recently resigned as assistant pastor at North Morton Church, Morton. He is available for preaching and may be reached at 6613 Lang Mill Road, Forest, MS or call (601) 625-7640.

Joe Epting has announced his retirement from full-time pastorates after 37 years. As previously announced in The Baptist Record (Sept. 4) Epting resigned Randolph Church, Pontotoc County, Aug. 31. He can be contacted at 719 Monticello St., New Albany, MS 38652, or (601) 534-1099.

BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

William Carey College's annual Parents' Day will be held Oct. 4 on campus. Registration and a faculty reception will be held in the Chain Garden at 10 a.m., followed by performances by the Carey Chorale, symphonic

band, and the Department of Theatre and Communication at 11 a.m. Lunch will be served at 12:15 p.m., and parents will attend a pep rally in the gymnasium at 1:30 p.m. For more information, call (601) 582-6115.

Bill Hetrick, William Carey College School of Education and psychology dean, was appointed to the 15 member State Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development for a four year term. Hetrick, who is one of the three representatives from the Fifth Congressional District, will represent Private Colleges and is succeeding Alan O'Dell of Mississippi College.

Contemporary oil paintings of Ann Biedenharn Jones will be on exhibit Sept. 3-29 in the Samuel Marshall Gore Art Gallery on the campus of Mississippi College. As a supporter of wildlife conservation, Jones places great emphasis on the wonders of the natural world. She also strives to give each subject in her paintings a unique personality. When she is not painting, Jones works in the field of art education. In the past, she has worked as an Artist-in-Education under a grant from the Mississippi Arts Commission and taught art in the Vicksburg public school system. The Gallery is open Mon.-Fri. from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m.

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- Verbatim: Experiencing Chaplain Al Carden
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Other facilitators include Dr. Paul Stephenson and Dr. Jack Follis of Mississippi Baptist Medical Center; and Dr. Richard Brogan of Missions Extension Dept. of Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Registration fee of \$5.00 per person (includes lunch and materials) is due by **SEPTEMBER 19.**

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

PICKING OUR SINS

Editor:

In light of the recent firestorm of controversy surrounding the SBC's boycott of Disney, I felt compelled to put pen to paper and ask the poignant question: Why do we, as Baptists, pick and choose our sins?

Is it OK to "boycott" one particular sin and let the other "ninety and nine" go unscathed? Hasn't it always been easier to "judge" someone into Hell than to "love" them into Heaven? Would Christ, the perfect teacher, have "boycotted" that poor woman at the well or said, as he did, "Go thou and sin no more?"

Brothers and Sisters, we are living in the most trying of times! The Christian community is being besieged by a carnal world that needs Christ's message of love and redemption now more than ever! Do we really have time to waste on the luxury of judgement? If we stand in judgement over Disney, shouldn't we also seek out others who are committing the same sins and "cast" them out? If we do, where does it all end? Will one unsaved soul find salvation due to our boycott? If Christ came tomorrow, would he ask if we upheld the boycott or loved the unsaved into his Kingdom?

Therefore, in these last days, for me and my house — "Publicans all" — we will continue to love, as we have been

loved, to judge not, lest we be judged, and to seek our own precious Salvation with "fear and trembling!"

Anthony Wayne Kalberg
Gulfport

THANKS FOR MENTORS

Editor:

I have read with interest the articles by former summer missionaries from Mississippi. Memories of the summer of 1960 flooded my mind as I thought about my time of service in the San Antonio, Texas area.

A few weeks ago, I had the privilege of visiting San Antonio for the day. I had no idea that I would be able to track down any of the people that I had worked with during that summer.

Borrowing a telephone book from a vendor in Market Square, I searched for several people that I remembered from 1960. Imagine my excitement when I located the name of Brother Henry Talbott! He had been in charge of all of the "greenhorns" that summer.

He is retired now, but still produces his radio program that he started in 1963. We discussed my work at El Jordan, one of the Hispanic churches where I worked in VBS. It is now closed, for lack of a pastor. This saddened me.

I'm so glad to have had the opportunity to thank Brother

Talbott for all of the time he spent guiding and directing us in our work there. That summer truly changed my life and the way that I feel about missions. Being in the trenches, instead of just reading about missionaries, made the admonition of Matthew 28:19-20 come alive for me.

I praise God for people that he has put in my life at just the right time to help me to grow in my Christian walk. I thank God for saints like Brother Henry Talbott!

Helen Claire Taylor Barlow
Clinton

SCOURGE OF ALCOHOL

Editor:

When will the world wake up? When will pastors and parents wake up? When will pupils wake up? When will we all wake up to the dangers of the sale and the use of intoxicating beverages?

God's word teaches of the dangers of alcohol. Alcohol led to the downfall of Noah in Genesis 9:20! Alcohol birthed two evil empires, each an arch-enemy of Israel, practically

overnight in Genesis 19:30-38! King David tried to cover up the truth about his adulterous affair using alcohol as a tool in II Samuel 11:13!

Personally, I have helped pull accident victims from twisted up cars. I've seen the motionless bodies of those who stepped off into their eternities! All as a result of the contribution of alcohol!

Listen, preachers, parents and pupils! If I saw a rabid wild dog in my yard that was fixing to pounce on my children—I would get my rifle, I would shoot and kill the dog!

Join with me and let's kill alcohol. Chop off its ugly head before it kills your princess or prince — or even you!

Mississippi Baptists—let's not let Paul Jones stand alone on the alcohol "soapbox!" Learn to hate alcohol with every fiber of your being! Find a place on that soapbox and get on it with him and me!

Let's fly the flag at "half-mast" for Princess Diana but let's also fly the flag at "full mast" against the liquor industry!

David A. Crowe, pastor
Siloam Church, Meadville

Niger Baptist leader dies

NIAMEY, Niger (BP) — Sekou Maiga, a Baptist leader from Niger who gave his testimony during the Southern Baptist Convention annual

meeting in Dallas June 11, died Aug. 29 of a heart attack.

Maiga's decision to follow Jesus Christ stirred a great deal of controversy among the many members of his Muslim extended family, said Brad Womble, a Southern Baptist International Mission Board missionary who worked with Maiga.

Niger, situated above Nigeria in western Africa and largely covered by the Sahara Desert, is more than 99% Muslim and animist.

"Sekou's conversion and baptism brought about many questions from his family and friends, but he remained faithful as he followed Jesus," Womble said.

REVIVAL DATES

First, Lake: Sept. 14-17; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Hardy Denham, evangelist; Ronnie Cottingham, music; Harold Scott, interim pastor.

Calvary, Natchez: Sept. 21-24; Sunday, 11 a.m., noon meal, and music by Sweet Spirit at 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Matt Buckles, consultant, Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, evangelist; Brandon Breithaupt, music.

Concord, Macon: Sept. 21-26; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Paul Blanchard, Louisville, evangelist; Chuck Cotton, Macon, music; Jerry F. Zgarba, interim pastor.

First, Pearl: Sept. 14-17; Sunday, 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon service including lunch and 7 p.m.; Jeff Eaton, Lawrenceburg, Ky., evangelist; Graham Smith, director, Church Music Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, music.

Trace Ridge, Ridgeland: Oct. 12-15; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon and 7 p.m.; Billy Smith, Madison, evangelist; Richard Sparks, Pearl, music; Ed. McDaniel, pastor.

Rawls Springs, Hattiesburg: Sept. 19-21; Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, Sunday School at 9 a.m., worship at 11 a.m., dinner on the grounds, and concert by the Dixie Echoes; Billy Smith, Madison, evangelist; Bernie Parker, Columbia, music; Rodney Crutchfield, pastor.

Pope (Panola): Oct. 10-12; Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11

a.m., former pastor Jimmy Furr of Mt. Juliet, Tenn., evangelist; Ken Lewis, Cleveland, music; Jimmy C. Bryant, pastor.

Temple (Metro): Sept. 14-17; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Perry Perrett, Fort Worth, Texas, evangelist; Lance Fendley and Company, Temple Church, music; Scott Worley, pastor.

HOMECOMINGS

Damascus, Hazlehurst: Sept. 14; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; Bruce Parrish preaching; covered dish lunch; 1 p.m. singing with Tim Frith and the Gospel Echoes.

Friendship, East, Charleston: Sept. 14; Witness Quartet will be featured in a 10 a.m. special service, regular services at 11 a.m., and services following lunch; J. G. Thomas, pastor, speaker.

Springdale, Ripley: Sept. 14; worship, 11 a.m.; noon meal, and 6 p.m. service; revival will continue Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Robert Walker, Booneville, evangelist; Ted Burcham, Pontotoc, music; Maurice Pinkston, pastor.

Friendship, Aberdeen: Sept. 28; worship, 10:30 a.m.; noon meal; 1 p.m. singing; Don

Dunavant, Mid-America Seminary, Memphis, Tenn., evangelist; Hubert Greer, Wesson, music; Todd Bowen, pastor.

Sylvarena, Wesson: Sept. 14; worship, 10:30 a.m.; noon meal; 1:15 p.m. service; Jerry Barlow, former pastor, speaker; Myrna Loy Hedgepeth, music; Richard King, pastor.

Pleasant Hill, Quitman: Sept. 21; Dennis Kennedy, speaker; Jimmy Sanders, pastor.

Furrs, Pontotoc: Sept. 14; 11 a.m.; gospel music program following lunch; Bill Dowdy, former pastor, speaker; Michael Waldrup, former music director, music; Walter M. Simmons, pastor.

Franklin, Flora: Sept. 17-21; Wed.-Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 10:45

a.m. and noon meal; Lisemby evangelistic ministries, Kingland, Ark.; Weyland Gauntt, pastor.

Calvary, Petal: Sept. 21; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m. followed by dinner on the grounds; and 1:30 p.m. service with Emmett Boone preaching and Charles Walker leading the singing.

Sallis, Sallis: Sept. 21; dedication of new church building will also be held; worship services, 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Thomas Wicker, pastor.

Second, Kosciusko: Sept. 28; worship, 10:30 a.m.; covered dish in fellowship hall at noon; 1 p.m. singing; Danny Dodds, Brookhaven, guest speaker; James E. Johnson, Jackson, music; Rickey McKay, pastor.

LIFE AND WORK

One and only Savior

John 14:5-9a, I Tim. 2:5-6; I John 5:7-12

By Geneva England

A godly Sunday School teacher once said if he had to choose only one chapter of the Bible to carry into exile, it would be John 14. This chapter holds the foundational truths of Christianity, specifically that Jesus is the one and only Savior.

Only One Way (John 14:5-9a). Jesus comforted his disciples, particularly the puzzled Thomas and Philip, when they didn't understand he was going away and leaving them. After all, they had followed him for three years. Neither did they understand about his preparing a future dwelling place and returning for them. Nor did they grasp Jesus' referring to himself as one with God the Father.

Jesus explained to the disciples, "I am the way, the truth, and the light" (v.6).

Thomas Kemps paraphrases Jesus' teachings this way: "Without the way, there is no going; without the truth, there is no knowing; without the life there is no living. I am the way which you must follow; the truth which you must believe; the life for which you must hope" (qtd. in Bible Expositor. Cleveland: Union Gospel, Winter 1990).

Only One Mediator (I Tim. 2:5-6). Jesus Christ now sits on the right hand of God as the one and only mediator, both providing the door for the lost to access God and communicating between the Father and believ-



England

ers. Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross bridges the gap between sinful men and the righteous God, but only those who believe become sons of God and have their names written in the Lamb's Book of Life. When the Jews handed Jesus over to be crucified, he became the stone which the builders rejected. Nevertheless, he is the all-sufficient cornerstone of Christianity because he arose, and "there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). Regardless of how hard man tries to ignore this truth, it stands!

With his mission on earth accomplished, Jesus ascended to the Father to prepare a heavenly abode for believers. Soon afterward, the Holy Spirit came to believing Jews and Gentiles alike to comfort, direct, and intercede on their behalf with "groanings which cannot be

uttered" (Rom. 8:26).

The joy and comfort of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit fills believers' hearts to bursting! Even though we often commit wrongs not wanting to and fail to do good when we should, we have an advocate in Heaven pleading for us.

Only One Testimony (I John 5:7-12). Jesus came as the Word to reveal God to man. He became the visible, earthly expression of God the Father with human flesh and blood. Christians must be wary of any gospel other than that given by Jesus Christ: one based on faith and manifested in love.

In contrast, the sinful world system belongs to Satan and his followers. Satan uses the occult, idolatry, etc., but, more subtly, a perverted version of the gospel to thwart God's work. If he can mislead Christians, they become ineffective servants of God.

To substantiate Jesus' claim

of deity, three witnesses are named (v.9): the advent of Jesus into his earthly ministry (by water), his crucifixion (shedding of blood), and the proclamation by the Father and the Holy Spirit at these two historical events. United, these refuted the false teaching of John's day plus fulfilled the requirement for a minimum of two witnesses to support a legal matter.

If anyone denies these witnesses, he calls God a liar and condemns himself to eternal punishment by his own unbelief. Jesus said, "Because you have seen me, you have believed, blessed are those who have not seen, and yet have believed" (John 20:29). Faith is the key.

Salvation is not universal; it is individual. Sincerity does not save; belief in Christ does. Human efforts for salvation are worthless; only works after salvation glorify God.

England is a member of First Church, Grenada.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

God and his highest creation

Genesis 2:4-25

By Jason Bird

The creation account of Genesis 1 shows the order and purpose of creation. A logical sequence occurs from the beginning of light to the more complex creation of man. The record of man in the first chapter is that God created man in God's image. Chapter two provides more detail about God's highest creation.

The Creation of Adam (2:7). Man is both a physical and a spiritual being. The Bible states that he was fashioned out of the dust of the ground. No matter how man may envision himself as a god, the fact remains that eternal God created humanity

out of material that he, God, had already created. Though certainly not equal to God, man is, however, the greatest aspect of God's creation. God gave to man the breath of life and man became a spiritual being created in the image of God.

God's hand in fashioning lives did not end with Adam. The psalmist said, "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14). Just as Adam's life was a miracle of God, so each life today is miraculous. The birth of a child is not just a biological event, it is the continuing work of God's wonderful creation.



Bird

That fact gives each life meaning and value.

The Assignment To Work (2:15). It may surprise some to know that there was work in paradise before sin entered the world. Adam was not created to serve God. His specific responsibility was to work in the Garden of Eden and to take care of it. Because it was work God commanded, it was therefore service to his creator.

One does not have to be in vocational ministry in order to serve God with his or her work. Whatever God has shown you to do, that is your calling. There is dignity in all work done for the glory of God.

Freedom and Responsibility (2:16-17). God had wonderful blessings in the garden for Adam. Adam was free to enjoy every part of the garden except for the tree of the

knowledge of good and evil. Man was not a robot — he had the opportunity to choose to obey God and enjoy all that God had in store for him, or disobey God and face the consequences.

Man still has that choice today. Each person was created with a free will. We exercise that will each day in the choices we make—we either obey God and experience his blessings, or disobey God and pay the penalty for doing so.

The Creation of Eve (2:18-23). Adam had almost everything in the garden: he had dominion over the earth, purpose in life, and freedom to obey God. Yet, there was still something missing. Adam needed the companionship no other part of God's creation could provide. God took care of this need by creating Eve. The man expressed his understanding of the uniqueness of this

aspect of creation by stating, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh." Adam now had a family to share in the blessings of God.

Marriage and Family (2:24). God's intention for this union was clear: it was to have priority over all other earthly relationships and it was to be permanent. The two were to share an intimacy that could only be described as the two becoming one. Adam and Eve had nothing to hide from each other.

At this time in the Biblical record, things were perfect on earth. Man and woman communed with God, had purpose in life and shared a complete intimacy. We shall see next week how sin ruined all that. Yet, the good news is that through Christ, man can ultimately be restored to God's original plan.

Bird is pastor, 15th Avenue Church, Meridian.

FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

What will satisfy?

Isaiah 55

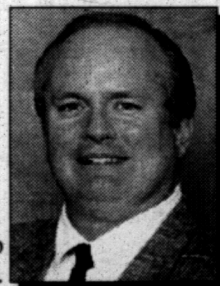
By Wayne VanHorn

Jesus Christ is the only one who can satisfy the hungry soul! Today's lesson focuses on a passage that has timeless application. The message brought both hope and instruction when first delivered to God's people in exile. The message remains valid today, amplified by the death and resurrection of Christ.

Best Buy (55:1). The passage begins with a generous invitation. The invitation is extended to everyone who thirsts, even those who have no money to buy what they need. The Lord freely and fully provides all that a person truly needs; he offers his pro-

vision without cost to those who will come. The threefold use of "come" in the imperative mode emphasizes the urgency and strength of the invitation. The double invitation to buy without money signifies that the price for what you need has been paid already by the Lord, a price you could not afford.

Lifetime Guarantee (55:3). Isaiah 55:3 is best understood in the light of 55:2. The Lord calls for an assessing and realigning of priorities (55:2). The commands of 55:3 "to incline the ears," "to come," and "to listen" have a single purpose... "that you may live." God's always invites people to life!



VanHorn

Judgment and death are the negative results of forsaking God's great invitation. All of the commands in these verses are plural signifying that the Lord reaches out to all who will listen. The "everlasting covenant" refers to the faithfulness and trustworthiness of God in establishing and maintaining this new relationship. The "faithful mercies of David" (NASB) refers to the covenant loyalty demonstrated by the Lord toward King David. In effect, God is saying, "If you come to me, I will never let you down!" David is cited as historical proof of that proclamation. God never failed David.

Complete Instructions (55:6-7). No one can read these verses and say they did not know what God expected. The Lord spelled out in specific terms precisely what people had to do to enter into the life changing

covenant with him. First, they had to seek the Lord and call upon him. The phrases "while he may be found" and "while he is near" indicates that people do not have unlimited time in which to respond. God's gracious invitation is a limited time offer. These phrases also indicate the great reality that the Lord may now be found because he is near now! The invitation is extended to sinners, whom the prophet describes as wicked and unrighteous.

The word "return" (55:7) is the Hebrew word *shuv* rendered "repent" in other passages. The reference to God's compassion and pardon reveal his true nature.

Superior Designer (55:8-9). Many people who hear this great invitation cannot comprehend how it is possible. The answer lies not in our ability to understand but in the sovereignty and superiority of God himself. God makes this invita-

tion possible. His thoughts and ways are far superior to anything we can come up with. Our task is not to understand fully, but rather to trust the benevolence of God and take him up on his offer of life.

Assured Satisfaction (55:10-11). What guarantee do we have? Only one. God's word. God gives us his word that the things he has promised he will do. What a delight to study Bible history and to find that not once did God promise his people something and then let them down. He always did what he said he would do. Everything! Every time! His word causes things to happen just like the rain and the snow cause the earth to sprout. God desired to restore the exiles in their home land. He desires to restore our relationship with him through Christ. Will you take him up on his invitation?

VanHorn is pastor, First Church, Columbia.

The Road to Everlasting Life



God intends for all his children to live with him forever, but the road to everlasting life is blocked. To find that road you must:

Admit that you are a sinner.
There is none righteous, not even one. (Rom. 3:10)

Accept God's love for you.
God demonstrates his own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (Rom. 5:8)

Acknowledge Christ as Lord.
If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you shall be saved. (Rom. 10:9)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Mississippi Baptist Church for spiritual guidance.

Kenyans respond to evangelism campaign

NAIROBI, Kenya (BP) — More than 34,000 people registered decisions for Christ after Southern Baptist and Kenya Baptist volunteers teamed up for two 10-day evangelism campaigns in western Kenya this summer.

The large response to the gospel is expected to jump start Baptist work in a part of Kenya where Baptists are not well known.

The West Kenya Baptist Evangelistic Effort produced 125 congregations and 34,226 new believers, said Sam Turner, an associate director in the International Mission Board's volunteers' department. The effort teamed up 258 Southern Baptist volunteers with 844 Kenya Baptist workers.

"Baptist work in Kenya is stronger in some areas than others," said Turner, a missionary in Kenya for 25 years before joining the staff at the board's Richmond, Va., headquarters. "Our goal was to start new churches, rather than get large numbers of decisions."

But volunteers found people ready to open their hearts to Christ, he said.

"Kenya Baptists are a people of prayer," he said. "Some of the volunteers who worked in the Bungoma area reported everyone they talked to wanted to accept Christ."

"When they asked why, they learned the Kenyans had fasted and prayed on a weekly basis for several weeks and then for



KENYAN HARVEST—A total of 125 congregations were started and 34,226 decisions were registered during the West Kenya Baptist Evangelistic Effort, an evangelism campaign designed to jump start Baptist work in western Kenya this summer. Leaders baptized 349 new believers during the project, which involved 258 Southern Baptist volunteers and 844 Kenya Baptist workers. (BP photo by Matt Jones)

three straight days before the volunteers arrived. They were just really spiritually prepared." Kenya Baptists were stimulated by pre-crusade training

and relationships developed with the Southern Baptist volunteers, said Bob Allen, one of about 15 IMB missionaries who worked with Kenya Baptist leaders to coordinate the effort in 17 associations.

"Pastors and church members were trained in witnessing, and leaders of new preaching points and many new Christians were trained in basic principles of Christian growth," Allen said. "Pastors and church members were encouraged by being with volunteers, seeing that time spent in evangelism is valuable, productive time."

To minimize the strain of discipling new believers, each new preaching point was tied to an established "mother church" that will help with follow-up and provide ongoing support for the new work, Allen said.

The western Kenya project is the third of four planned for the country. A 1990 crusade in Kenya's coastal area resulted in 55,000 decisions; 1995's crusade in the capital, Nairobi, registered 11,257 professions of faith.

A fourth evangelism campaign targeting eastern Kenya is set for 1999.

Since 1982, when Kenya's 505 Baptist churches set a goal of having 6,000 congregations by AD 2000, the number of Baptist congregations in the country has more than quadrupled in number.

Attorney forsakes power, position for God's call

COLUMBIA, S.C. (BP) — Why would a successful attorney with a high profile, state government position suddenly forsake it all?

Henry Deneen, chief legal counsel to the South Carolina governor, believes there was no real choice. God called; he and his wife Celia answered.

"When the call of God to do missions comes, it's so exciting to say, 'yes,'" the graduate of the University of South Carolina's law school and former city judge asserts with conviction. "We're not giving anything up; we're gaining life — an opportunity to be used of God."

Although neither Henry nor Celia let on, the decision to move to the West Coast to enroll at Golden Gate Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., had to be tough — especially since they have four children: twins, Lee and Laura, 7; Leslie, 4, and a newborn, Layna.

Deneen chose Golden Gate because the seminary offers a master of arts in intercultural studies, which "fits what we want to do," he explains. After two years of study on campus, the degree may be completed on the missions field.

Their decision, however, came as no surprise to those who know them best.

Both Henry and Celia were reared Southern Baptist and were exposed to missions all of their lives. Celia, a former school guidance counselor, served a two-year missions stint in Hong Kong through the International Mission Board's Journeyman program. Henry's father, Robert Deneen, is a retired pastor in South Carolina.

Together they have established a thriving

ministry to college students at Shandon Church, Columbia, where Henry has served as a deacon chairman. Their ministry has a decided missions focus.

"The Lord changed my heart over the past 10 years through doing inner-city ministry with students in Boston, New York, New Orleans, Washington, and Toronto," explains Deneen.

In addition to campus outreach and community ministries, students have headed for missions projects in six countries during the past two years.

"Henry and Celia have led our singles program from 12 to more than 100, and our college program from 30 to an average attendance of more than 160," pastor Dick Lincoln notes.

"I'm not surprised by his decision, but I am very pleased," Lincoln adds. "I've seen God working through his life for some time now. He's a real spiritual force."

Deneen's commitment to Christ is no secret around the office either. He has begun a weekly Bible study, attended by business leaders, state workers, and the governor's staff. He also started a luncheon and Bible study that on a recent Friday drew more than 110 workers who are renovating the state house.

"Henry Deneen is a spiritual mentor to everyone in this administration," says Governor David Beasley. "We all go to him for spiritual guidance about personal matters."

"His love for the Lord is so evident in his personal walk," adds Beasley. "Everybody he sees is a vehicle of hope to carry the gospel for the Lord."

One of the few unresolved issues is where they will serve. While they both are leaning toward the Orient, Celia quickly adds, "We want to move where God needs us."

"We're going with an open heart," explains Deneen. "We love the Orient, but we're saying, 'God, we trust you to lead us.'"

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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YPD PE XBR XBQYUH DBQAB DR
BWJR HTPCRY XBQH QH XBR HOG
DR BWJR HOAB WY BQUB
TSQRHX, DBP QH HRX PY XBR
SQUBX BWYI PE XBR XBSPYR PE
XBR GWZRHXL QY XBR BRWJRYH;
BRVSRDH RQUBX: PYR

Clue: C equals K

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: James Two Eight.